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AND PENSIONS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

May 18, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary, US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

First, thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented time and your work to ensure the continued protection of our nation's greatest natural and historic treasures. These have been trying times for all of us, and your leadership of the Department of the Interior will be key as we chart the course to safely restart our economy and emerge from the impact of COVID-19.

I write you today regarding the opening of Department of Interior sites in the state of Georgia. As our state continues to move past the peak of COVID-19, our local communities wish to have the federal government work with our partners in state and local governments to ensure all recreational and economic assets can open back up in a safe and coordinated manner.

The state of Georgia is home to some of the most varied locations in the Department of Interior's portfolio, from the beaches of Cumberland Island National Seashore to the 10,000 years of continued human inhabitation at Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park to the birthplace of an American hero at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park. I encourage you to have your regional offices and individual units work with their local communities to find safe ways to reopen these sites for taxpayers to be able to enjoy once again. As you know, many of these parks and sites are found in or near rural and smaller communities, and these communities see a significant economic impact from them. A coordinated, efficient, and safe reopening will be key to a successful economic and cultural recovery for these communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your continued service to our state and nation and the hard work that the employees across the Department of Interior do for America, day in and day out.

Sincerely,



Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator